

## A PROFESSIONAL "WEEPER."

A Young Scamp Who Finds Stealing More Profitable Than Weeping.  
"Jack the Weeper" is well known about the lower part of the town. He has been exploited in the newspapers in connection with arrest and incarceration, has been interviewed and had his picture taken, and on various occasions has sworn off from professional weeping. "Jack the Weeper" is a diminutive looking specimen of a seven-year-old boy with a twenty-year-old face and a stock of experience and cunning rarely accumulated by mankind this side of fifty. He is ostensibly a newsboy, but the fraternity hold him in great contempt or know him only to thumb him. His "racket" has been to get a bundle of papers together late in the evening and weep at the foot of the elevated stairs down town.

Sympathetic people cast him pennies and nickels and dimes, and sometimes an occasional quarter or half dollar found an abiding place in the weeper's inside pocket—all on the supposition that he was an honest lad who had been "stuck." Thus the weeper found that tears could be coined into cash more easily and profitably than by the ordinary course of the news trade. But just as Jack had worked up a fairly regular trade in came a policeman, a cold and calculating man of the world, with a club, and broke up business by arrest, examination and consequent publicity.

At the foot of a down town stairway of a Sixth avenue elevated station in the most fashionable part of New York recently occurred a scene which demonstrated that "Jack the Weeper" had not only not gone out of business, but had vastly improved upon former methods.

It was about the fashionable shopping hour and the swell women and dilettantes young men were flocking to the down town trains. A delicate lad, with a consumptive cough and a bundle of cast-off morning newspapers, stood shivering at the foot of the stairs, two great big homemade tears plowing their way through the dirt on his cheeks as the muddy waters of the Missouri seek the sea. Several of us stopped out of sympathy and began to question the boy. At the same time nearly every hand in the crowd instinctively sought for change. An exceedingly sharp eyed lady impulsively pulled out a bill and pushed it into his trembling fingers, accompanying the act with an appealing look around upon the rest of us. It worked.

Everybody in sight gave silver, and an old lady who came in later on the scene pressed a two dollar note upon the child. I missed two trains to note the goodly sight, and I felt proud of my fellow creatures and the beautiful sympathy of my kind. The boy never said a word. He merely coughed and wept and scooped in the coin. In the excitement of the moment I forgot an errand I had at the next station and went past it. Then I got out, went up the other side and rode back.

There was a little mob gathered on the down town side at the foot of the stairs. So nearly like the other mob was it that at first I thought I had made another mistake and gone back to my starting point. But no; it was the next station.

Well, "shiver my timbers!" as the old salt says, if there wasn't the same boy with the same graveyard cough, the same weep, the same old papers, and, what was most astonishing, here was the same sharp eyed, benevolent lad in the midst of a group of sympathetic women, just starting a liberal subscription.

My first impulse was to jump in and grab her and yell for the police, but I conquered it and walked away, wondering how much money there was in this new snap of the woman and the weeper. —New York Herald.

## Are Scott and Dickens Obsolete?

Who reads Scott and Dickens now? To that question what is the true answer? The implied answer of course is that no one reads them or that their readers are getting yearly fewer. It may be said at once, and it may be said flatly, that it is not the case. They are not only still read by many people, but they are read by more people today than they ever were before. This fact is substantiated by the copies of their works that are sold; indeed it stares us in the face at every railway book store.

Scott and Dickens, if measured by the number of their readers, are growing in popularity, not declining. I should certainly say that, so far as my own observation can inform me, no two writers are more universally familiar at this moment than Scott and Dickens. The old read them; the young are reading them, nor need any one doubt the fact because they are not discussed like novelties.—W. H. Mallock in Forum.

## A Famous Expression.

"There's many a slip 'twixt the cup and the lip" is a very old saying, and was first uttered to the king of Samos, an island in the Grecian archipelago. This king, Anceus by name, planted a vineyard and treated the slaves who cultivated it so badly that one of them told him he would never live to taste the wine made from it. When the wine was ready and a cup of it poured out for the king he sent for the slave who had prophesied his death, and asked him what he thought of his prophecy now.

The slave replied, "There's many a slip 'twixt the cup and the lip," and just as he had spoken the words Anceus received warning that a wild boar had broken into his vineyard and was ruining it. Putting down the wine unsealed, he rushed out to attack the boar and was killed.—Harper's Young People.

## Athletes and Corsets.

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## He Paid His Bet.

"Speaking of strange bets on an election," said Colonel Joe Rucker, of Colorado, "the one that takes the ribbon over any I have ever seen mentioned will be, lost and paid by an enthusiastic Greenbacker many years ago. One of these enthusiasts at that time, whose view of the political situation was seen through the roseate-hued spectacles of a reform organ, was certain that a man by the name of Brown would be elected governor of Missouri, and bet every thing he had except the clothing on his back and a young wife. Either his affection for his wife or his knowledge of law prevented his making a wager of her, so as a last bet he wagered his services for a year against \$500.

"Of course he lost, and borrowing a few dollars from a friend he sent his wife back to her folks in Missouri, while he presented himself to the saloon keeper in Denver with whom he had made the bet. The latter, more as a joke than anything else, grubstaked him and sent him out to prospect. The first month a small find rewarded his labors, and cupidity then caused the soon keeper to insist on the payment of the wager in full. To curtail the narrative, he carried out his wager of a year's service scrupulously and located two more mines, from which the winner, though now wealthy, is still drawing dividends. Upon the fulfillment of his obligation he sent for his wife, and is now employed by one of the street car companies of Denver at about fifty dollars a month, and will probably never get above that figure."—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

## Notes That Druggists Receive.

"You'd laugh if you could see some of the homemade prescriptions we receive here sometimes," said an east side druggist the other day. "I mean the notes mothers give to little children when they send them here for medicine. 'Here is one written on a piece of newspaper margin 'arney 4 a sor fot,' which, translated means arnica for a sore foot. Another, on a piece of cardboard, was easily intelligible 'powdered magnesia for phisik.' 'Poison, Gross of Sulphur for bedlings' called for corrosive sublimate to rid a bed of the terror of the tenements. 'I Poishon insect powder' meant Persian insect powder for the same purpose.

"Dangle fot fly paper" was for paper to tangle the feet of the flies. "Bla carb of sody" meant the simple baking soda, to be used in this instance probably for a disordered stomach. Tincture of lobelia was asked for on a torn scrap of billhead under the disguise of 'tincture lobster,' and capsine porous plaster was supplied when 'cappicne plaster' was requested.

"Some mother with a crying baby, in order to get sleep herself, asked for 5 ct pectoral to quiet the infant. Tincture of ipecac for external use," some woman carefully wrote when she wanted iodine, adding in an explanatory manner, "inward, roshie salts."—New York Press.

## Don't Eat Too Many Oranges.

"Too many oranges are not wholesome for any one who has a tendency to gastric trouble," says a well known physician. "It is generally supposed that oranges are particularly healthy, and in many families they are the regular concomitants of a breakfast table, parents thinking that they must necessarily be wholesome, whereas in some cases they are positively injurious.

"One of my patients, a boy of twelve or thereabouts, has had a severe attack of stomach trouble every winter for several succeeding years, attacks for which I could find no apparent cause until I happened to find out by accident that every year about that time the family received a barrel of oranges from Florida, upon which the children were allowed to regale themselves freely. This was the whole trouble; oranges did not agree with the child, and when he ate them freely he was ill. I stopped his eating them, and he has never had a recurrence of the trouble."—New York Tribune.

## The Way Cyclones Turn.

The question is often asked, Why do cyclones "whirlwinds" and tornadoes all persist in the polar whirl from right to left? Astronomical speculators have supposed that all the planets once existed as rings of thinly scattered matter around the sun, and that these rings were annual segregations from a vague, irregularly scattered mass that turned one way in spiral courses, thus determining the direction in which the rings revolved, and all the rest from this took the same course.

"But," you say, "why did the nebula revolve at all?" It grew from chaos, and chaos presumably possessed an inherent motion from right to left. This being the case, from that time to this, sun, moon, stars, planets, cyclones and tornadoes have adhered to the original habit.—St. Louis Republic.

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